CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

NOTICE
8.3

September 15, 2009

TO: All Sworn and Civilian Personnel

FROM: Chief of Detectives

SUBJECT: PHOTOGRAPHING MINORS DURING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS – ***CLARIFICATION***

This Notice clarifies procedures delineated in the Juvenile Manual, Section 309.35, Photographs, which states, *"Any visible injuries should be photographed by SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION DIVISION, (SID), Photo Lab personnel. A DR number must be obtained prior to requesting photographs. Photographs should be taken prior to medical treatment; however, treatment shall not be withheld pending photographs. The Photo Lab must be notified to take photographs at the hospital in cases requiring the hospitalization of the victim."* This also prohibits officers from taking digital photographs in lieu of SID photographs. Any deviation from this policy shall require the verbal approval of a Juvenile Division supervisor prior to taking any action. Under no circumstances shall photographs of genitalia be taken by anyone other than an SID photographer or medical personnel (i.e., Sexual Assault Response Team doctor, nurse, etc.).

The above procedures are intended to protect the privacy of the subject. They also alleviate any concerns with sensitive photographs depicting child abuse that may possibly be stored in unrestricted servers such as those located in a kit room or community drive on an Area LANS computer. In addition, prosecutors from the City and/or District Attorney's office will not file charges without photographic evidence in most cases. Professional photographs, assigned a DR number and filed in a secure but attainable location, are far more desirable and address most concerns.

Department entities performing suspected child abuse investigations shall consult and coordinate with the Investigative Control Unit (ICU) at (213) 485-6392 or the Misdemeanor Injury Assault Team (MIAT), at (213) 485-2883, Juvenile Division, to avoid the risk of violating the requirements established in the Juvenile Manual and to ensure the proper documentation of the victim's injuries. The investigators assigned to the ICU and the MIAT have been provided specialized training and are available to provide advice and guidance to Department personnel on cases of suspected child abuse.

Any questions regarding this Notice may be directed to any supervisor at Juvenile Division at (213) 485-4220, or during off-hours, Real-Time Analysis & Critical Response Division (RACR) at (213) 484-6700, for advice or assistance.

APPROVED:

CHARLIE BECK, Deputy Chief
Chief of Detectives

JIM McDONNELL, First Assistant Chief
Chief of Staff

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